

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday, October 4, 2007**

**(R-2638)**  
**202/273-1991**  
[www.nlrb.gov](http://www.nlrb.gov)

**NLRB CHAIRMAN BATTISTA NAMES  
KENNETH LOPATKA CHIEF COUNSEL**

National Labor Relations Board Chairman Robert J. Battista announced today the selection of Kenneth Lopatka as his Chief Counsel. A prominent management attorney for 30 years and former law professor, Mr. Lopatka will serve as the principal legal advisor to Chairman Battista. He succeeds Harold Datz, who retired.

Since 1977, Mr. Lopatka has represented companies and individuals in labor and employment matters, both as plaintiffs and defendants, as a partner at law firms in Boston and Chicago. He has extensive litigation experience in the courts and before administrative agencies, including the NLRB. He has represented numerous employers in collective bargaining negotiations and other employment matters, including discrimination based on age, race, sex, and disability.

Announcing the appointment, Chairman Battista said:

Ken possesses a combination of legal scholarship and practical experience in the labor relations field that will serve him well in his new position. We share a common background of long careers practicing law in the Midwest and coming to Washington to try to make a contribution in public service. I look forward to working with this highly accomplished attorney, who brings to this position sound judgment, good ideas, and legal acumen.

A native of Naperville, IL, Mr. Lopatka earned his B.A. from Benedictine University in 1968. He graduated from the Harvard Law School magna cum laude in 1971, serving as an Editor of the Harvard Law Review. Following a clerkship with Judge Walter J. Cummings of the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, he joined the faculty of the University of Illinois College of Law in 1973 as an assistant professor of law. Earning tenure and the rank of associate professor of law in 1976, he taught all the courses in the College's labor and employment law curriculum.

Mr. Lopatka left teaching in 1977 for the private practice of law with Foley, Hoag & Eliot in Boston; becoming a partner there in 1979. He joined Jenner & Block in Chicago, as a partner in 1983 and became head of the firm's labor and employment law group. In 1989, he established his own firm in that city, and thereafter continued to practice law in Chicago as a partner in a labor and employment law boutique for 12 years and then in the satellite office of a large west coast firm until June 1 of this year. Following his relocation to the Washington, D.C. area, and before starting with Chairman Battista, Mr. Lopatka practiced law at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz in that firm's D.C. office.

For many years Mr. Lopatka taught labor and employment law courses as an adjunct professor at Northwestern University School of Law and at the University of Chicago Law School. This academic year, he will teach the basic labor law course at the University of Virginia Law School.

Mr. Lopatka's principal residence is in Isle of Palms, SC.

###